RICE BUILDING WORKSHOP

Spring 2015
Arch 330 (3 credit hours)/ Arch 630 (4 credit hours)
T/Th 10:50 am-12:35 pm
T 10:50 am-12:35 pm + Saturday during construction
AH 309, and On-site
Danny Samuels and Jason Fleming
with participation by Nonya Grenader

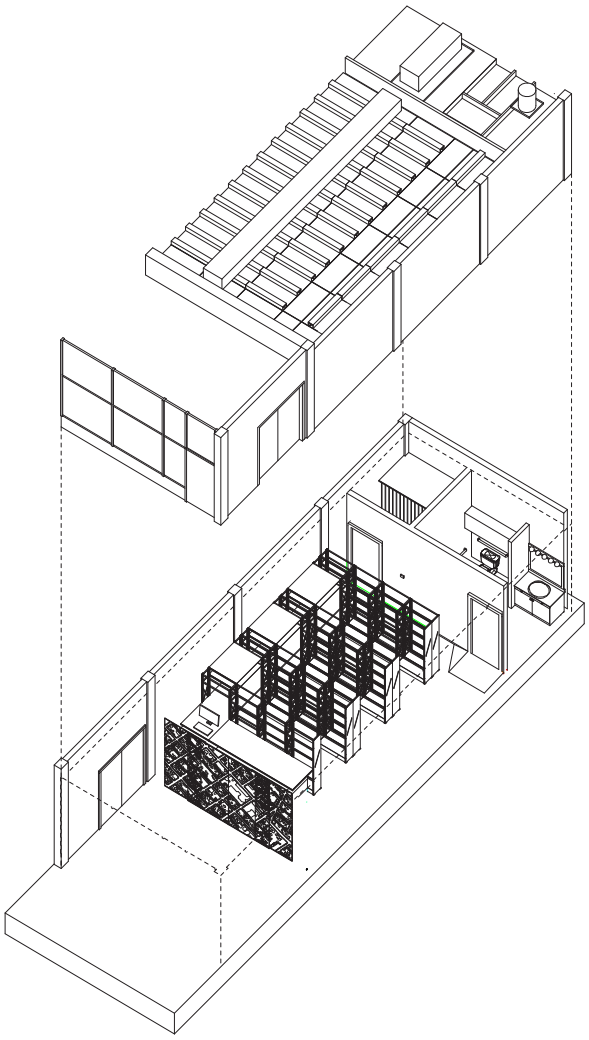
PROJECT ROW HOUSES ARCHIVE

An archive, exhibition, and research space at the Eldorado Ballroom

Since its inception nearly twenty years ago, Rice Building Workshop (RBW) has situated itself as a bridge between representation and reality. It is the laboratory where design exists as concept, as diagram, as drawing, as digital model, as physical prototype, as final installation, and everything in-between. In each of these contexts, students reconcile an architectural agenda with outside factors that include clients, budgets, and laws of physics. Capitulation to these factors not an option; rather they serve to focus design and spark innovation.

This spring, RBW will continue its long-time partnership with Project Row Houses (PRH), a non-profit organization that is internationally recognized as a catalyst for transforming community through the celebration of African-American art, history, and culture. Its legacy exists in the Third Ward community that it serves, as well as in an extensive archive of artwork and artifacts through which its own evolution can be traced. RBW was invited to design a home for this

archive in a storefront in the historic Eldorado Ballroom that would not only address the necessities of storage but also would provide space for meeting, research and exhibition, and would situate the archive within the context of its micro- and macro-community.



It can be difficult to trace where design begins and ends. Through the Fall 2014 semester, a group of ten students worked through a series of individual and group design proposals, ultimately arriving at a developed scheme. Students in Spring 2015 will pick up where the previous group left off, quickly working to identify and address areas in need of additional design refinement before launching into construction, fabrication and installation. The physical prototype will be the semester's key medium for exploration, and will progress from limited scope in the early days of the semester to full scope by the final days. The scope of this project is limited, and there will be ample opportunity to focus on design at the scale of details.

The spring RBW seminar is dual listed as a three- and four-credit-hour course, and in some ways this will suggest the level of commitment for each student. To be clear, **all** students are expected to demonstrate the same level of intellectual commitment: the design belongs to the entire seminar and its exigencies must be shared equally by all. Students registered for four credit-hours will be asked to contribute more to the construction and fabrication efforts, which means more nailing, more painting, more drywalling and more coordinating.

SCHEDULE

In order to complete the project by the end of the semester, the schedule is necessarily aggressive. All team members will be expected to make significant contributions both inside and outside of class time. Beginning in mid-February, construction and fabrication work will shift to Saturdays, in addition to a single planning meeting during the Tuesday class period. Work schedules will be adjusted to accommodate *charette* and jury weeks.

The schedule below will serve as a general guideline as it will likely evolve throughout the semester. It is generally broken into three phases where design work is most focused:

- **Studio**: drawings, digital models and partial scale prototypes
- **Shop**: proto-final and final components fabricated in a shop setting (Anderson Hall, Ryon Lab, OEDK, PRH WorkYard, etc.)
- **Site**: construction and installation at the Eldorado, including coordination with various sub-contractors

January

Week 1	Orientation/Introductions
Week 2	Studio
Week 3	Studio

February

Week 4	Studio (**Final Design Review: February 5)**
Week 5	Studio
Week 6	Shop
Week 7	Shop

March

Week 8	*Spring Break*
Week 9	Site/ Shop
Week 10	Site/ Shop
Week 11	Site / Shop

April

Week 12	Site
Week 13	Site
Week 14	*Charrette* (work schedule to accommodate)
Week 15	*Jury Week* (work schedule to accommodate)

GRADING CRITERIA

A	Excellent work, exemplary leadership
B	Above average work
C	Acceptable work
D	Unsatisfactory work

The semester grade will be determined as follows:
30% Contributions in the Studio phase
50% Contribution to the Shop and Site phases
20% Contribution to class discussions, regular attendance, and active involvement in reviews and presentations with clients and consultants.